Plot Digitizer

This web tool is a graphical interface to easily obtain data points from plot images that might be found in journal publications or other places.

Directions

Basics:

First you must obtain an image which is a web supported format, some include png, jpeg, and gif formats (pdf, ps, and eps will not work). As a suggestion it is convenient to use the Micrsoft Windows "Snipping Tool" or another screenshot program in Linux, or Mac OS to easily get a png formatted snapshot from a pdf or anything displayed on your screen.

With an image file saved simply drag and drop the file from your file manager into the large dashed box in the plot digitizer. The image will then be displayed in the page. You may then set the Display width in pixels and click resize to change the image size if desired. Also if you set the Display width prior to dragging and dropping the image will be set to that size automatically.

Next click on the image and you will see a cross bar marker displayed at the point you click, and the x,y position on the image displayed as the "Current coordinates". At this point you may simply read off the x and y axis values of a figure using the cross bars.

Options:

Marker: will change the large cross bars to a small x if desired.
x-axis: whether the plot has a log x-axis or not.
y-axis: whether the plot has a log y-axis or not.
Scientific notation: All data points in the output list will be in scientific notation. Input are not affected, input may be decimal or scientific, (i.e. 58000 or 5.8e4).

Digitize:

To use the semi-automatic digitizer you first must set two reference points (Make sure to set the axis scales properly in Options). Choose any point that you easily can see the x,y values; along axis are often good choices. With the marker set at this point, enter the x and y values in the reference value boxes, then click set reference #1. Next choose another point and set reference #2. Choosing points diagonally across a plot is good because a linear interpolation is used, so the larger the distance separating the reference points in x and in y directions the better.

After 2 reference points are set, the "Current values" will now show under the "Current coordinates" the values will be the calculated values on the next point you click. If you wish to add the data points to a list click "Add current data point to list" and the x,y value will be added to a list. This is helpful if you would like to get data to reproduce a curve plot.

Tips: When setting values or trying to get data points, for best accuracy use repeated clicks with small mouse movements until the cross is *exactly* where you want it.